

# Misti Sandefur, Christian Fiction Author

## Inspiring With Words to Warm Your Soul

### Biography

My fondest memory is sitting in my room filling notebooks with short stories. I started doing this at the tender age of eight. I did my best writing longhand, which I still do on many occasions. Then I typed everything out on a manual typewriter, and from there I advanced to a Word Processor, followed by an electric typewriter, and today I transcribe the stories and articles that I write longhand using the computer. Boy, times have really changed! For the better, of course, but old school is still better for some things. ;)

Back when I was young, I wrote lots of short romances. Many of my schoolgirl crushes were the protagonists in those stories. Nowadays, though, I write inspiring stories. I believe God called me to write, so my intentions are to show how one can use their faith to overcome the many curve balls life throws us. I'm also a big believer in angels, so I love writing fiction that includes angels. In fact, the hero in "Help From Above," my first Christian novel, is an angel sent by God to help a man rediscover his faith and overcome his addiction to drugs and alcohol. My purpose for writing "Help From Above" was to show readers that God loves and cares for everyone, including sinners and backsliders.

The Lord has blessed me with more than just the ability and knowledge to write Christian fiction stories, he's also given me the gift to create feature articles, Web content and blogs for editors, webmasters, entrepreneurs and others in need of content for their publications, websites or blogs.

Each day that I sit down to write, I look forward to sharing my knowledge and blessings with others. My faith, as well as the support from my fans, children, husband and mother, has helped me get to where I am today, which includes over 200 articles that have appeared in print and on the Web, in addition to two books (published under Misti Jackson). Furthermore, I'm the founder and editor of [CoffeeBreakforWriters.com](http://CoffeeBreakforWriters.com) and [LivingFrugally.info](http://LivingFrugally.info).

When I'm not writing, I devote my time to my three adult children, husband (a veteran of the United States Marine Corps), two granddaughters, grandson, and my two adult stepchildren. As a family, we love to hike, camp, fish, hunt, play family board and yard games, and explore the beauty God created as we visit the historical sites in Southern Illinois, where I've lived since birth.

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### Publication Credits

Coffee Break for Writers

Paducah Parenting & Family magazine

Southern Families magazine

Wow! Women on Writing

FWJ blog

*Stories of Strength* anthology

... and many more

## Booklist

"On the Net Resource Guide for Writers"

**Publishing info:** July 2002, Virtual Bookworm Publishing Inc.

**ISBN:** 1-58939-224-8

**Note:** Published under Misti Jackson, but now I publish my work under Misti Sandefur (see [press release](#) for explanation).

"Help From Above"

**Publishing info:** March 2002, Virtual Bookworm Publishing, Inc.

**ISBN:** 1-58939-145-4

**Note:** Published under Misti Jackson, but now I publish my work under Misti Sandefur (see [press release](#) for explanation).

## Media Coverage

### Online:

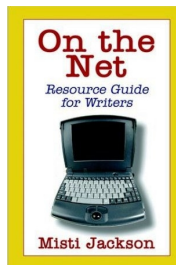
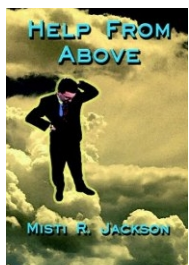
- [John A. Logan College News, May 2010](#)
- [Sue Glasco, May 2010](#)
- [Writing the Cyber Highway, March 2008](#)
- [Inkwell Editorial, February 2008](#)

### Print:

- [Heartland Women, May 2010](#)
- [Herald Enterprise, Fall 2005 and Spring 2001](#)
- [Writer's Forum Newsletter, Fall 2001](#)

## Press Photos

Click on the following images to download and save the high resolution photo to your computer.



## **Speaking Topics**

### **Frugal Living**

I've been living frugally for over 15 years. In that time, I've learned of many ways to save money. My biggest savings thus far has been cutting an \$800.00 monthly grocery bill down to \$500.00 a month, and that is without using hardly any coupons. The most my husband and I have had in our home at one time is seven people (including myself), and with only two incomes to support a household of that size, I've pinched many pennies to ensure everyone's fed and bills are paid. I even came up with a budget to pay off quite a few of the debts my husband and I had.

As you can see, I have quite a bit of life experience when it comes to saving money, and I love sharing everything I've learned to help other families and small business owners save money. I can share recipes of frugal meals that will feed a large family, disclose tips on how to save when grocery shopping for a large family, provide debt reduction advice or reveal ways to start an at-home business on a budget and much more. Some topics will include free handouts.

### **Writing/Publishing**

I've been writing for more than 10 years and am the author of two books (both published under Misti Jackson). Throughout the years, I've learned a lot about the writing and publishing industry, and today I share my knowledge and secrets to success with aspiring and veteran writers. The topics I discuss include getting organized, building an effective writing portfolio, marketing writing services, working with clients, marketing fiction books, creating characters, choosing the right publisher, dealing with rejection, blogging and social networking. Most all of these topics include free handouts that writers can use to get started, stay organized and advance in their writing careers.

### **Marriage/Relationships**

Throughout my relationships, I've used my faith to get through the tough times. Unfortunately, my first marriage ended in divorce due to my ex husband's numerous affairs and his physical and mental abuse. I really prayed hard during those six years hoping things would get better, but everything only got worse, and I felt the Lord didn't want me or my three children to live that way, so I left.

Six months after my divorce, I met Kevin, a father of two and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. We had our first date in October 1998 and married on June 26, 2004. Kevin is a caring man and a great stepfather. It took me time to learn to trust again, and like most marriages, we have our disagreements, but my faith in the Lord has allowed me to build a strong marriage this time around. I feel Kevin is a blessing, and I know this marriage will last until the Lord calls us home.

That said, it's always my pleasure to share marriage/relationship advice with others. I can discuss domestic violence, using prayer and faith to build a long-lasting relationship, and give advice on how to survive heartbreak with God's help.

## **Praise for *Help From Above***

"I won't go into details about the book as this is one that you will just HAVE to read! It's wonderfully written and very touching. Misti has great talent and it shows in this book. I highly recommend it to everyone. Thank you, Misti, for the time and effort you put into writing this book!" -- **Marianna Keough, reader in PA.**

"In tradition of Clarence from *It's a Wonderful Life*, Misti gives us the story of Ronald, an angel who has yet to earn his wings. His first assignment is to save George from the path of self-destruction that was similar to the one that caused his own death.

Told in a simplistic style that is easy for all ages to comprehend, this short novel offers the message of hope for everyone affirming that God is looking out for even the most unrepentant sinner." -- **Amanda Faye Killgore, Ivy Quill Reviews**

"A heart-felt story of devotion, love, challenge and denial as seen through the soul of one in the know." -- **Merlin's Review Staff, Merlin House Editing**

"*Help From Above* is similar to the well-loved television drama *Touched By An Angel*. It contains all the warm heart-felt elements, which will keep readers spellbound until the last page is savored and enjoyed.

*Help From Above* is powerfully written. This gripping emotional story presents a realistic glimpse into the sufferings of drug and alcohol abuse. Readers will walk away feeling as though they witnessed a miracle as the ending dramatically closes." -- **Suzie Housley, MyShelf**

## **Praise for *On the Net Resource Guide for Writers***

"A must grab for all writers! What is beneficial to you as a writer, what do you need to make your career in the writing world possible? A guide to bring you a step closer to reaching your dreams.

If you are starting out as a new writer, whether you want to get into or do write poetry, eBooks, articles, even audio books, or have been writing for awhile and want a little help getting published and recognized, this practical guide is for you.

Concise explanations of definitions, detailed examples of the different types of publishers, book reviewers, editors, literary agents, etc. Followed by names of companies and a brief description of what formats they want and the genres they are interested in. It also includes links to their websites, email addresses, who to contact, what they offer and prices to get you started on the road to a successful writing career.

For those of us who do not know or understand the writing world language and where to start, this book is a great first step on your road to becoming a successful writer. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is trying to start a career in the

writing world." -- **Sam, reader from Canada**

"The road to publication is a rocky one. Finishing your manuscript is only the beginning of the writing journey. Agents and publishers are inundated with Great American Novels. How do you make yours stand out from the pack? The Internet is filled with practical advice covering all aspects of the writing process. Misti has compiled an extensive list of websites into a book titled *On the Net Resource Guide for Writers*.

This book mimics the classic *Writer's Market* format. Certain contacts are similar, but *On the Net* does cover a publicity-related niche not found in *Writer's Market*. Misti provides an ample list of message boards, reviewers and websites related to book promotion. The author also provides links where writers can find sample query letters and samples of book synopses.

*On the Net Resource Guide for Writers* features descriptions and contact information for several types of publishers including: print on demand, eBook and small-press. *Writer's Market* has a more substantial list of publishers, but *On the Net* provides a set of small companies that may be able to give more attention to new writers.

*On the Net Resource Guide for Writers* is a handy supplement to the current *Writer's Market*. Many of the contacts can be found elsewhere, but who wants to spend time looking when this book does it for you? Misti's compilation is an asset to any personal writing library." -- **Amy Coffin, The Book Haven**

"A lot of research and patience has gone into this book; it is well-arranged and methodical, easy to read and written in plain English. This book is a great first step on your road to becoming a successful writer." -- **Samantha Rose, eBook Reviews Weekly**

"I would like to congratulate Misti for the wonderful job she has done researching her book, *On The Net Resource Guide For Writers*. There is no fanfare in her book, but she gets right to the point of information. This is something we all appreciate as writers. With over 200 pages and more than 17 topics listed, the author gives you a wealth of needed publishing insight.

Her topics include print on demand publishers, small press publishers, conventional publishers, magazine publishers and eBook publishers. She explains the difference between print on demand publishers and small press publishers, gives needed tips on approaching different publishers and helps in the somewhat confused world of submitting manuscripts. She has collected from each source, their websites, email addresses and guidelines. This is a Godsend for all authors. She has devoted sections to helping the reader with query letter samples, book review sites, promoting book sites and a listing of editors and agents.

Misti has done a thorough job in her research and writing of this book. This reviewer found valuable answers for my own writing questions. It is one that should be on the

desk of all authors, as a quick review book and a source of publishing information. This book is worth its weight in gold, for the time alone that you will save, in not having to search this material out yourself. I highly recommend it." -- **Shirley Johnson, Reviewer**

"As an author, as well as freelancer, this reader of Misti's book has provided invaluable information on the how-to's and wheres to gain access to almost any question a writer could ask. Organized in easy to read, well organized, and informative sections and topics. Misti offers her experience and know how to both novice and veteran writers. An added bonus is her easy, friendly manner in approaching her topics, and the friendly way in which she offers advice. I felt like I was getting advice from an old friend." -- **Denise Clark, Author/Freelance Writer**

### **Unsolicited Praise From Readers**

"Entertaining... I always loved that program, but you put it so well! Good writing!" -- **Diane Cross**

"I just wanted to write you and say how much I have enjoyed reading several of your articles. Thank you for the great content. Keep the great articles coming, I always look forward to reading more of your work." -- **Jeff Bauer**

"Your professionalism in all your online work is impressive. I'm looking forward to updates through your fan club!" -- **Lynn Pritchett**

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